Problems of Indian Traders in Nepal

†3696. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders and citizens of Indian origin residing in Nepal are not being treated well;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far in this regard; and

(c) the action, the Nepal Government have assured to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) There are a large number of people of Indian origin in Nepal, including traders, of whom some have been living there for several generations. Many of them have been denied Nepalese citizenship and are accordingly not entitled to benefits that are due to other citizens of Nepal.

(b) and (c) The problems being faced by businessmen and traders of India and Indian origin were comprehensively discussed when the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal met in New Delhi on January 30-31, 2001 with a view to address them effectively. Further discussions between the two countries are envisaged soon.

Sale of destroyed pieces of Buddha

3697. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 2nd April, 2001 captioned "Blown up Buddha relics on sale in Pakistan's Peshawar Bazaar and traders in Pak eager to sell to tourists";

(b) whether UNESCO's spokesman has reportedly said that U.N.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.